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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/727,977	12/05/2003	Noboru Aoki	03280089 AA	7232

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EXAMINER	
THOMAS, ASHISH	

ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
2625	

MAIL DATE	DELIVERY MODE
09/19/2007	PAPER

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

The time period for reply, if any, is set in the attached communication.

Office Action Summary	Application No.	Applicant(s)	
	10/727,977	AOKI ET AL.	
	Examiner	Art Unit	
	Ashish K. Thomas	2625	

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

1)☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on *12/5/2003*.

2a)☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b)☒ This action is non-final.

3)☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

4)☒ Claim(s) *1-6* is/are pending in the application.

4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.

5)☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.

6)☒ Claim(s) *1-6* is/are rejected.

7)☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.

8)☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

9)☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.

10)☒ The drawing(s) filed on *12/5/2003* is/are: a)☒ accepted or b)☐ objected to by the Examiner.

Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).

Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).

11)☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

12)☒ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).

a)☒ All b)☐ Some * c)☐ None of:

1.☒ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.

2.☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.

3.☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

1) ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
2) ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
3) ☒ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO/SB/08) Paper No(s)/Mail Date *5/6/04*.
4) ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413) Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____.
5) ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application
6) ☐ Other: _____.

DETAILED ACTION

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

> A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –
>
> (e) the invention was described in (1) an application for patent, published under section 122(b), by another filed in the United States before the invention by the applicant for patent or (2) a patent granted on an application for patent by another filed in the United States before the invention by the applicant for patent, except that an international application filed under the treaty defined in section 351(a) shall have the effects for purposes of this subsection of an application filed in the United States only if the international application designated the United States and was published under Article 21(2) of such treaty in the English language.

1. Claims 1, 3, and 5 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) as being anticipated by Hashimoto(U.S. 2002/0039116).

Regarding claim 1, Hashimoto discloses a printer comprising:

- a printing unit that performs a print operation to print images on a recording medium based on print data; (**Figure 1 and paragraph 44 teach a printing machine that can output images on a recording medium.**)
- a setting unit that sets one of error recovery method for each of a plurality of error categories, the error recovery methods including an automatic print continuation and a recovery by user's operation; (**Paragraphs 58 and 71 detail two types of error recovery methods. One being the user taking an action to recover the error while the other being continuation of the printing operations despite the error.**)

- a memory that stores a correspondence data indicating the set error recovery method of each error category; (**Paragraph 58 discloses a ROM 34 that stores the error recovery data.**)
- an error detecting unit that detects an error during the print operation; (**Paragraph 59 describes error detection units 35.**)
- an error category detecting unit that detects an error category of the detected error; (**Paragraph 71 teaches the ability to judge the type of error; this inherently teaches the existence of an error category detecting unit.**)
- a method detecting unit that detects an error recovery method corresponding to the detected Error category with reference to the correspondence data stored in the memory; (**Paragraphs 58 and 71 teach that recovery methods such as user action or continuation of printing are implemented based on the type of error category. And note that the errors are classified into a group wherein further printing is prohibited and another group wherein the printing is continued. What all this inherently teach is the existence of the type of method detecting unit stated in the claim language.**)
- and an error recovery unit that executes an error recovery procedure according to the error recovery method detected by the method detecting unit. (**Paragraph 71 teaches that the recovery of an error is executed based on the type of error.**)

Regarding claim 5, it is rejected in the same manner as claim 1.

Regarding claim 3, Hashimoto teaches "the printer according to claim 1, wherein the memory is a nonvolatile memory." (**Paragraph 54 teaches a ROM 32.**)

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

2. Claims 2, 4, and 6 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Hashimoto(U.S. 2002/0039116) in view of well known prior art(Official Notice).

Regarding claim 2, Hashimoto discloses "the printer according to claim 1, further comprising a display unit that displays a message." (**Paragraph 71 divulges an output screen that displays the error recovery method.**) Hashimoto also teaches a method wherein "when the error recovery method detected by the method detecting unit is the automatic print continuation, the error recovery unit automatically executes an error recovery procedure and controls the printing unit to continue the print operation without waiting for an instruction from the user." (**As described before, paragraph 71 of Hashimoto describes an error recovery method that automatically continues the print process when an error is detected.**)

But Hashimoto is silent on a printer comprising "an input unit through which a user inputs various instructions." Nor does Hashimoto teach a method wherein "when the error recovery method detected by the method detecting unit is the recovery by user's operation, the error recovery unit controls the display unit to display an error message and an operation guide message, prompting the user to input a instruction,

and executes an error recovery procedure in accordance with the instruction from the user."

The examiner would like to take official notice and assert that it is well known in the art that a printer comprises "an input unit through which a user inputs various instructions." Furthermore, a method wherein "when the error recovery method detected by the method detecting unit is the recovery by user's operation, the error recovery unit controls the display unit to display an error message and an operation guide message, prompting the user to input a instruction, and executes an error recovery procedure in accordance with the instruction from the user" is also well known in the art. (**Please take note that there are numerous print systems out there that ask the user to input error recovery commands and proceed there onwards based on the user inputted commands.**)

Therefore, it would have been obvious for one of ordinary skill in the art, at the time of the present invention, to modify Hashimoto with well known prior art to fully realize the printer stated in claim 2.

The motivation would be to allow the user more of an input in the recovery process.

Regarding claim 6, it is rejected in the same manner as claim 2.

Regarding claim 4, the previously described Hashimoto reference fully teaches the subject matter described in claim 1.

But Hashimoto is silent on "an updating unit that updates the correspondence data in accordance with an instruction from the user."

The Examiner though takes official notice and asserts that a printer comprising "an updating unit that updates the correspondence data in accordance with an instruction from the user" is well known in the art. (**As previously stated, there are numerous print systems out there that ask the user to input error recovery commands and proceed there onwards based on the user inputted commands. It is also well known in that art when the user inputs a command, an update is performed based on the inputted user command.**)

Therefore, it would have been obvious for one of ordinary skill in the art, at the time of the present invention, to modify Hashimoto with well known prior art to fully realize the printer stated in claim 4.

The motivation would be to allow the user more of an input in the recovery process and update the recovery methods based on the user inputs.

Conclusion

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Ashish K. Thomas whose telephone number is 571-272-0631. The examiner can normally be reached on 9:00 a.m. - 5:30 p.m. EST.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Aung S. Moe can be reached on 571-272-7314. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see http://pair-direct.uspto.gov. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.

Ashish K. Thomas

AUNG S. MOE
SUPERVISORY PATENT EXAMINER
9/11/07